



Tribune-Star

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Taste o' the green



Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

Drinking o' the green: Complete with a tiny green sparkly hat (thanks to good friend Betsy Salmon) Bainbridge resident Mark Lickliter, enjoys a green beer with Salmon on Thursday at Sonka's Irish Pub.

Irish and basketball fans come together to celebrate March 17

BY DAVID KRONKE
TRIBUNE-STAR

If ever there were a day made for beer, it's one when St. Patrick's Day coincides with the beginning of March Madness - The NCAA men's basketball national championship tournament.

Sonka's Irish Pub was already packed at noon Thursday with patrons bedecked with green T-shirts, hats and beaded necklaces. Owner Sandy Boyles-Gillen laughed when asked if the day represented a perfect storm for beer consumption. "Everyday is good with a beer," she said.

But a chalkboard at the back of the bar had been counting down the days to St. Patrick's Day - on Thursday, the countdown concluded with a giant "0 Days!", the "0" underlined several times.

In front of the chalkboard sat Patricia Hancock, Phyllis Boland and Laura Mattox, or the Winettes, as they call themselves when they embark on social outings. Hancock, nursing a green beer, had even more reason to celebrate - Thursday was also her birthday.

"Sonka's is where we celebrate my birthday - my husband and I came here all the time for the codfish, and we always came here



Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

St. Pat's baby: Patricia Hancock, center, celebrates her birthday with friends, Laura Mattox and Phyllis Boland, on Thursday at Sonka Irish Pub.

on my birthday," Hancock said. "He was here last year and he surprised us, all decked out with a hat and everything." He has since passed away, but the Winettes still celebrated the holiday and Hancock's big day.

Turn to **GREEN**, A7

Board OKs casino hotel height

Zoning change would allow building to be 'visible,' 'attractive'

BY HOWARD GRENINGER
TRIBUNE-STAR

Churchill Downs Inc. on Thursday received approval of a 25-foot zoning variance allowing it to construct a 150-foot tall hotel, as part of its Queen of Terre Haute Casino Resort.

The Terre Haute Board of Zoning Appeals voted 4-0 to approve the rezoning, with one board member absent.

Prior to the vote, board member Jason Saavedra questioned the need for the high building, as the casino has a 50-acre site, which would allow for development of a wider, but lower structure along Margaret Drive, with less parking area.

Turn to **HOTEL**, A6

Rescuers search theater rubble as Russian attacks continue

BY ANDREA ROSA
ASSOCIATED PRESS • Kyiv, Ukraine

Rescue workers searched for survivors Thursday in the ruins of a theater blown apart by a Russian airstrike in the besieged city of Mariupol, while scores of Ukrainians across the country were killed in ferocious urban attacks on a school, a hostel and other sites.

Hundreds of civilians had been taking shelter in the grand, columned theater in central Mariupol after their homes were destroyed in three weeks of fighting in the southern port city of 430,000.

More than a day after the airstrike, there were no reports of deaths. With communications disrupted across the city and movement difficult because of shelling and other fighting, there were conflicting reports on whether anyone had emerged from the rubble.

"We hope and we think that some people who stayed in the shelter under the theater could survive," Petro Andrushchenko, an official with the mayor's office, told The Associated Press.

Turn to **THEATER**, A9

Preparing for an 'awesome' 3 minutes

Terre Haute committee begins planning for potential visitor influx to watch 2024 total solar eclipse

If planning two years in advance for a three-minute event seems obsessive, consider two descriptions of such a phenomenon.

"A lot of people say it changed their life," said Angela Speck, chairperson of the University of Texas-San Antonio physics and astronomy department.

"I've been told it would be like [Indiana State University], Rose-Hulman and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods [College] all having homecoming at the same time.

All the hotel rooms full. You'll know something is happening," said Susan Turner, executive director of the Terre Haute Children's Museum.

No, the Kentucky Derby isn't moving to Terre Haute. Besides, it's usually over in two minutes-plus.

Terre Haute will experience a total solar eclipse Monday, April 8, 2024. The moon will block out the sun from 3:04



MARK BENNETT
TRIBUNE-STAR

2024 eclipse info

■ Visit Clayton, Indiana, eclipse chaser Dan McGlaun's eclipse2024.org website for a range of resources and calculations.

■ Visit the American Astronomical Society's website at eclipse.aas.org/.

to 3:07 p.m. The city hasn't been in the "path of totality" for a solar eclipse since Aug. 7, 1869. After 2024, Terre Haute won't see another total solar eclipse until Oct. 17, 2153.

Thousands of visitors - from eclipse chasers (yes, that's a thing) to backyard astronomers and spur-of-the-moment curiosity seekers - could flow into Terre Haute to watch it happen.

Turn to **BENNETT**, A6



Tribune-Star file/Joseph C. Garza

Solar system history: Then-Terre Haute South juniors Carter Boyll and Kassondra Volkers gaze safely through their glasses at the 2017 eclipse without straining their necks thanks to a blanket and a comfortable spot in Deming Park on Monday, Aug. 21, 2017.

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